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1. Bevin's reply on Polish forces in Italy--Embassy London has forwarded the text of a 17 February letter from Bevin to the Secretary-General of the UNO regarding Vyshinski's letter of 15 February, with which was enclosed the Yugoslav Government's memorandum concerning the Polish Army in Italy. Bevin's letter includes the following points: (a) The Yugoslav Government, which had not previously complained to the British Government on this score, should have discussed its charges with Britain through diplomatic channels before they were submitted to the UNO. (b) The charges that Polish troops are concentrated near the Italo-Yugoslav frontier and have been gradually moving closer to that frontier are "entirely misleading". (Ambassador Kirk reports separately that no Polish troops in Italy will be used east of the River Tagliamento.) (c) There is no intention to relieve the 89th US Division by Polish troops. (d) Polish forces in Italy are not attempting to recruit Yugoslavs; there is no evidence that they are aiding Yugoslav dissidents.
2. Polish emigre press campaign foreseen--Embassy London has learned that members of the former London Polish Government intend to initiate an extensive press campaign in the United States and Great Britain on the question of Polish elections. The objective appears to be to place pressure on Mikolajczyk to refuse to agree to "block elections" and possibly to raise the election issue in Congress and Parliament.
3. British disturbed by Polish note on Polish troops abroad--Embassy London reports that the British Foreign Office was greatly surprised by a note from the Polish Government on Polish troops abroad, which insisted (a) that these troops be immediately disbanded and (b) that every individual upon release from military control should be free to apply for permission to return to Poland. The second stipulation was most disturbing to the British. The fact that the note was delivered just as the British Foreign Office and the Polish Embassy in London were completing a joint statement to induce as many of these troops as possible to return to Poland indicates that the Polish Government does not want most of these troops back.

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4. Views of Syrian Prime Minister on UNO deliberations--The US Charge at Damascus reports that on 18 February he talked with Prime Minister Jabri of Syria, who spoke "bitterly and pessimistically" about the UNO deliberations on the Levant question. Jabri stated that only the Soviet Union had taken a "clear and precise" position on that question. He objected to the US proposal because (a) it fixed no time limit for evacuation of foreign troops and (b) it failed to confine future negotiations (between Britain, France, Lebanon and Syria) to "technical" matters and thus would offer France an opportunity to extract privileges from Syria as the price of evacuation. The US Charge concludes that the Soviet Union is the only nation whose prestige has been increased among the local Arabs as a result of the UNO deliberations.
5. Cruiser HELENA and destroyers enroute to Europe--Navy states that the USS HELENA, a heavy cruiser, and destroyers GLENNON and CONE are enroute to UK to become the Flag Group for the Commander in Chief US Naval Forces Europe.

EUROPE

6. AUSTRIA: Byrnes' note raises DDGS issue with Molotov--Secretary Byrnes has transmitted to Molotov a letter concerning the Danube Shipping Company (DDGS), which has been seized as a former German asset by Soviet authorities in Austria. The Secretary recalls that Molotov had agreed that the various joint commitments in Austria did not exclude the possibility of consideration by the Allied Council of concrete cases of German assets in Austria, if those assets are distributed over various zones of occupation and if their origin is doubtful. He notes that the Soviet representative has declined to bring the case before the Allied Council in Vienna, and points out that the company's assets are distributed among the occupation zones and that "its origin provokes doubt". The Secretary, therefore, urges that the USSR empower its representative in Vienna to seek settlement of the case within the Allied Council.

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7. USSR: Anglo-American Committee barred from Soviet zones--The USSR has refused Embassy Moscow's request that the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine be permitted access to the Soviet-occupied zones in Europe. The Soviet note stated that the USSR and the respective Allied Councils are carefully watching enforcement of armistice bans on race discrimination, and evidenced irritation because the USSR was not consulted before the creation of the Committee.
8. FRANCE: Blum's US visit uncertain--Leon Blum has told Ambassador Caffery that he has not yet set a date for his visit to the US and that he might wait until after the International Bank Conference at Savannah. Blum also said that President Gouin was opposed to sending Andre Philip, Minister of Finance, to the Conference because of critical domestic financial issues.
9. SPAIN: Wheat demands refused by US--The Spanish Ambassador has been informed that, because of increased commitments to liberated and Allied countries, the US cannot increase Spain's wheat quota.

FAR EAST

10. JAPAN: Size of occupation forces--MacArthur has reported that the overall strength requirements for the occupation of Japan will be 173,000 by 1 July 1946, and by 1 July 1947 will taper to 151,000, of which 91,000 to 111,000 will be US and 38,000 UK personnel.
11. CHINA: LSTs requested for famine relief--General Marshall has requested that Admiral Cooke have 10 to 20 LSTs declared surplus for immediate transfer to UNRRA. These or other cargo vessels of equivalent size are required to help avert a famine in Hunan Province.
12. N.E.I.: Natives in outer islands welcome Dutch--In general, the natives of Borneo, the Celebes, and other important outer possessions have welcomed Dutch forces and are returning to

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work, according to Consul General Batavia. At Bangka Island, where the natives and Chinese are anxious to have the tin mines reopened, the reception was enthusiastic.

THE AMERICAS

13. ARGENTINA: Implied Soviet attitude--Embassy Moscow notes a significant underlying connection between the following: (a) the pro-Peron attitude of a Brazilian Communist editor, (b) the Soviet proposal to send a trade delegation to the Argentine, and (c) the conspicuous absence in Soviet newspapers of anti-Nazi enthusiasm regarding the Blue Book.
14. BRAZIL: Views on world situation--Ambassador Berle reports that, in a discussion with a number of Brazilian foreign policy makers, ex-Foreign Minister Aranha developed the thesis that the Russians are building a machine for crushing the British Empire, and that the British are being forced into the US orbit. He maintained that in preparing a general defense, the integration of the Americas --including Argentina -- was essential. Berle stated that Argentina should be so handled that it would become an addition, rather than a threat, to American defense.

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